

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education, established under section 26-12 and specifically provided for in chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, manages the statewide systems of public schools and public libraries. Both systems are under the policy-setting authority of the Board of Education and are administered separately.

Board of Education

The Board of Education, established under the State Constitution, Article X, section 2, formulates policy and manages the public school and public library systems through its appointed executive officers, the Superintendent of Education and the State Librarian.

The Board consists of thirteen members elected to four-year terms pursuant to sections 13-1 and 13-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and one nonvoting student member appointed for a one-year term by the Hawaii State Student Council, pursuant to the State Constitution, Article X, section 2. While ten of the elected members are from the City and County of Honolulu, and one each are from the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, each Board member has statewide responsibility.

Public School System

The Public School System is responsible for all public schools with educational programs and services in grades K-12. It provides limited preschool programs, community/adult education programs, and other programs for students with disabilities or special needs. Other programs administered by the Public School System include summer school programs and the A+ afterschool childcare program. It also regulates private trade, vocational, and technical schools (but no longer regulates or licenses private K-12 schools).

Under policies established by the Board of Education, the Superintendent is designated as the chief executive officer of the Public School System, pursuant to section 302A-1111, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Superintendent appoints a leadership team composed of the Deputy Superintendent; state-level Assistant Superintendents for the Office of Business Services, Office of Human Resources, Office of Information and Telecommunication Services, and Office of Curriculum and Instruction; District Superintendents and Deputy District Superintendents for seven administrative school districts (four on Oahu and one each for the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai); and an Executive Assistant.

The state-level offices provide the Public School System with administrative, professional, and technical support services, while the district offices are responsible for administering the public schools within their districts and for providing support services to the schools.

Office of the Superintendent

The Office of the Superintendent includes the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative Assistant, and seven offices: (1) Budget Office, which assists the Superintendent in the preparation, coordination, and explanation of the operating budget of the System; (2) Communications Office, which provides public relations service to the Board and schools, and coordinates dissemination of information to the public; (3) Civil Rights Compliance Office, which promotes compliance with equal opportunity laws, and coordinates administrative rulemaking; (4) Planning, Evaluation, and Testing Office, which provides departmental planning, evaluation, test development, and administration services; (5) Internal Auditor, which examines and evaluates the Department's system of internal controls; (6) Program Development Office, which provides leadership and technical guidance to maintain compliance with federal regulations in the provision of educational and related services to special education students and with the requirements of the Felix vs. Cayetano Consent Decree; and (7) Business Education Partnerships Office, which coordinates promotion of partners-in-education programs with various sectors of the community.

Office of Business Services

The Office of Business Services provides business, fiscal, and logistical support services and programs for the operations of the System. Such services and programs include financial accounting, payroll, purchasing, development and management of facilities construction and maintenance, school food services, printing and graphics, safety, and student transportation.

Office of Human Resources

The Office of Human Resources administers a comprehensive employment and industrial relations program. It handles matters pertaining to collective bargaining and negotiation; administers employment contracts; processes employee grievance and arbitration cases; promotes equal employment opportunity and affirmative action; administers the classification and compensation plan for certificated personnel (teachers and educational officers); administers the employee benefits and welfare program; plans and administers career development programs; certifies public school administrators; and provides related services.

Office of Information and Telecommunication Services

The Office of Information and Telecommunication Services provides voice, data, and video information systems infrastructure and support services for the public schools and state and district administrative offices. It provides leadership and direction for planning and supporting the effective use and management of information resources. It develops and maintains information and data processing systems for systemwide financial management and student information; provides data management and statistical research; and promotes, acquires,

produces, and disseminates educational technology and multimedia resources to develop and support instructional programs.

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction provides services in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating policies, programs, and procedural guidelines relating to instruction and educational support services to the public schools, including special education and adult community schools. Curriculum specialists assist the schools in developing successful practices that enhance student literacy and learning. The Office's responsibilities include all regular programs of instruction as well as services for disabled and gifted students, those with limited English proficiency, and students requiring compensatory education.

Public Library System

The management of the Public Library System is under the Board of Education, pursuant to section 312-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

State Librarian

The State Librarian, under section 312-2.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is appointed by the Board of Education and is responsible for all community/school and public libraries in the State. The System operates forty-nine public libraries, including twenty-three on Oahu, thirteen on Hawaii, six on Maui, five on Kauai, and one each on Molokai and Lanai.

Following major reorganization in 1995 and 1996, the System includes a Public Libraries Branch, which replaced library district offices in overseeing the Hawaii State Library, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and forty-seven branch libraries; the Management Information Branch, which handles administrative matters and federal grants; the Human Resources Branch, which provides centralized personnel services; and units providing Support Organizational Services for promotional needs and Logistical Support Services for centralized mail, deliveries, and supplies.

Advisory Bodies

Advisory Council for Adult and Community Education

The Board of Education appoints an Advisory Council for Adult and Community Education composed of fifteen or more representatives of industry, labor, civic organizations, and education, pursuant to section 302A-434, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Appointments are for a term of two years with reappointments optional but not to exceed a total of six years on the Council.

Library Advisory Commissions

Pursuant to section 26-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Board of Education may establish, specify the membership number and quorum requirements for, appoint members to, and disestablish a Library Advisory Commission, in each county, which sits in an advisory capacity to the Board on matters relating to public library services in its respective county.

Advisory Alliance for Literacy and Lifelong Learning

An advisory council known as the Advisory Alliance for Literacy and Lifelong Learning is established within the Office of the State Librarian, under section 312-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Alliance consists of seven members appointed by the Board of Education, with at least one member from each county. The Alliance acts as a statewide literacy planning alliance to maximize resources for community-level programs.

Teacher Education Coordinating Committee

The Teacher Education Coordinating Committee is established under section 304-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to cover matters of common interest to the Department of Education and institutions of higher learning in Hawaii. The membership of the Committee includes the Superintendent of Education and the Dean of the College of Education of the University of Hawaii, who serve in alternate years as Chairperson of the Committee. The members include a representative of each accredited teacher training institution in Hawaii, and others appointed by the Superintendent and Dean. The Committee submits an annual report to the Legislature which may include recommendations for legislative consideration.

Attached for Administrative Purposes

Classification/Compensation Appeals Board

The Classification/Compensation Appeals Board, established under section 302A-620, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is composed of three members. One member is appointed by the Board of Education, one member by the exclusive bargaining unit representing educational officers, and the third member is appointed by the Governor and serves as Chairperson. The Board sits as an appellate body on matters of classification/compensation of educational officers. The Board hears pricing appeals and completes the final adjustment to the classification/compensation plan by the first Wednesday of December of all even-numbered years. Following submission to and approval by the Legislature, the classification/compensation plan is effective as of July 1 of each odd-numbered year.

Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, established under section 302A-801, Hawaii Revised Statutes, consists of nine members, including four certified teachers, three educational officers, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Education. To the extent possible, the Board membership reflects representation of elementary and secondary school personnel and the neighbor islands. The Board establishes teacher licensing and credentialing standards and issues such licenses and credentials. The Board also conducts a cyclical review of standards and establishes licensing and credentialing fees.

